



The Mariposa

Vol. 14, No. 1

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS

Summer 2004

NEW PLAYGROUNDS OPEN IN HEILMANN AND CUESTA PARKS

San Luis Obispo County Parks opened two new



Heilmann Park

playgrounds in time for summer, one at Heilmann Regional Park in Atascadero and one in Cuesta Park in San Luis Obispo.

The playground at Heilmann

Regional Park features an interactive splash pad providing youth an escape from the heat in dancing waters, spray hoops and splash jets. With an "Alien Space Park" theme, the playground has a space shuttle tot structure, a space station play structure, green alien climbers and new swings.

Heilmann Regional Park is located near the southern end of Atascadero on El Bordo Avenue off El Camino Real. Water feature summer hours are 9:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.

The new playground at Cuesta Park reflects a "Mission" theme with a covered wagon tot structure, a mission style play structure,



Cuesta Park

spring horses and locomotives, swings and a new merry-go-round. Cuesta Park is located in the east end of San Luis Obispo off the 101 on Loomis Street.

Group areas are available in many SLO County Parks.

For information or to reserve an area, call: 805-781-4386

MORRO BAY GOLF COURSE RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Morro Bay Golf Course has retained the designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Morro Bay Golf Course was first designated to this distinction in 1995 and is one of 494 courses in the world and one of only 30 in California to receive the honor.

To qualify a course must demonstrate a high degree of environmental quality in: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and

Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Courses go through a re-certification process every two years.

San Luis Obispo County Parks operates Morro Bay, Dairy Creek and Chalk Mountain Golf Courses.



Excellent golf packages are offered at each course. For information call:
Morro Bay and Dairy Creek: 805-782-6070
Chalk Mountain: 805-466-8848.

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BOATING AT SLO COUNTY LAKE PARKS

BEING SAFE SAVES LIVES



Santa Margarita Lake

Each year public agencies report accident statistics to the California Department of Boating and Waterways (CDBW) for their annual California Boating Safety Report.

In 2003, California Counties reported 963 accidents and 61 fatalities to the CDBW. For the year, all SLO County agencies reported 32 boating accidents that resulted in 28 injuries and fortunately no fatalities. Countywide accidents accounted for \$21,800 in property damages.

According to Coast Guard statistics, drowning remains the number-one cause of death among victims of fatal boating accidents. Of that group, 68% were not wearing a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket while boating is the best way to protect yourself from drowning. That's why we say, "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It!" The National Safe Boating Council encourages boaters to follow these five safety tips:

- ☼ Wear your life jacket at all times while boating.
- ☼ Avoid alcohol use when operating a boat.
- ☼ Take a boating safety class.
- ☼ Get boats checked for safety and maintenance concerns.
- ☼ Be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can harm you whether you're inside or outside of your boat.

For more information visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com



Lopez Lake

Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita Lake are both great boating, fishing and camping lakes! Bring your boat, canoe or kayak and experience the fun! Day use is only \$6/vehicle with boat charges from \$1.50 to \$6. Camping fees range from \$16 to \$26. Annual passes are also available!

SUMMER LAKE PROGRAMS:

LOPEZ LAKE:

RANGER HIKES* - Every Wednesday, 10am, one hour hike through the back country. No sign up needed.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS* - Every Saturday night, 8:15pm.

BOAT TOURS* - Every Saturday, 9am to 11am. Two hour pontoon boat tour of Lopez Lake. Tour tickets \$5/adults, \$2.50/youth. Advance ticket purchase is required.

KID'S FREE FISHING CLINICS* - The 3rd Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm. Youth taught fishing safety, setting up a pole & tackle box, types of fish in the lake, and casting.

For Lopez Lake information call: 805-788-2385

Camping requests can also be made on line at:
SLOCountyParks.org

SANTA MARGARITA LAKE:

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM* - Saturday, Sept. 4th, dusk.

KID'S FREE FISHING CLINIC* - Saturday Sept. 25th, 9am to 1pm. Youth taught fishing safety, setting up a pole & tackle box, types of fish in the lake, and casting.

**For Santa Margarita Lake information
call: 805-788-2415**

* \$6 per vehicle day-use fee is required to enter each park or camping fees from range from \$16-\$25/night.

'KNOW YOUR BOATING' QUIZ



Test your boating knowledge and see how many of these boating questions you get correct:

1. Which are the colors used for boat lights?
(a) red & green (b) red & blue (c) red, green & white
2. Another name for life jackets is PFD, which means:
(a) Packaged Flotation Device
(b) Personal Flotation Device
(c) Padded Flotation Duty
3. The most important rule while on or around water is:
(a) to drink plenty of water
(b) to always wear your life jacket
(c) to be polite to other boaters
4. The marker system helps inform boaters:
(a) which way to travel
(b) about speed limits and information
(c) both
5. Starboard is the term or direction that is:
(a) the back of the boat
(b) the right side of the boat
(c) the left side of the boat

Answers: (1) C (2) B (3) B (4) C (5) B
Courtesy of California Department of Boating & Waterways

SUMMER AQUATICS PROGRAMS AT SLO COUNTY POOLS

Summer is in full swing and the pools in six San Luis Obispo County Parks are now open through Labor Day!
Join in and stay cool in the pool with recreational swim, aqua aerobics, lap swim and more!



ALL POOLS CLOSED ON MONDAYS
FOR MAINTENANCE



POOLS OPEN UNTIL LABOR DAY,
SEPTEMBER 6th

2004 AQUATICS SCHEDULE

LESSONS & SWIM TEAM registration is made at each local pool. JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS registration, call 805-781-5930, option 4

POOL	REC SWIM	LESSONS	LAP/FITNESS SWIM *min of 8 required	CO-SPONSOR OR FEE
HARDIE 805-995-1435	Tue - Fri: 1pm - 5pm Sat - Sun: Noon - 5pm	Tue - Fri: 11am - 1pm	Tue - Fri: Lap Swim: 5pm - 6:30pm Aqua Aerobics*: 10am - 11am	Sponsor: Cayucos Lions Rec: Kids FREE, Adults \$2 Lap: \$1.50, Aqua Aerobics: \$2 Lessons: \$33/ session or sponsor
SHAMEL 805-927-4447	Tue - Sun: Noon - 4pm	Tue - Fri: 10am - Noon	Tue - Fri: Aqua Aerobics* & Lap Swim* 11am - Noon	Rec: Kids \$1, Adults \$2 Lap: \$1.50, Aqua Aerobics: \$2 Lessons: \$33/ session
SANTA MARGARITA 805-788-2402	Tue - Sun: Noon - 6pm	Tue - Fri: 10am - Noon	N/A	Park entrance fee of \$6 per car Lessons: \$33/ session
TEMPLETON 805-434-3596	Tue - Fri: Noon - 4pm Sat - Sun: Noon - 5pm	Tue - Fri: 10am - Noon	Tue - Fri Lap or Aqua Aerobics* 4pm - 5:30pm	Sponsor: Templeton Lions Rec: Kids and Adults FREE Lap: \$1.50, Aqua Aerobics: \$2 Lessons: \$33/ session
SAN MIGUEL 805-467-3010	Tue - Fri: Noon - 4pm Sat - Sun: Noon - 5pm	Tue - Fri: 4pm - 6pm	Tue - Fri Lap or Aqua Aerobics* 4pm - 6pm	Sponsor: San Miguel Lions Rec: Kids and Adults FREE Lap & Fitness: FREE Lessons: \$33 or sponsor
SHANDON 805-239-1577	Tue - Fri: Noon - 4pm Sat - Sun: Noon - 5pm	Tue - Fri: 4pm - 6pm	Tue - Fri Lap or Aqua Aerobics* 4pm - 5:30pm	Sponsor: Shandon Valley Lions Rec: Kids and Adults FREE Lap: \$1.50, Aqua Aerobics: \$2 Lessons: \$33/ session

SWIM LESSONS: \$33/session (no refunds)

Session II: July 13 - July 23

Session III: August 3 - August 13

SWIM TEAM: \$60 per person - July 6 - July 30

JR. LIFEGUARDS: (ages 10-17) \$120/session

Session II: July 12 - July 30

Session III: August 8 - August 27

Sponsors donate funds to provide free youth swim and/or swim lessons .
Sponsors are needed for future aquatic programs. For more information, call Stacey King at 805-781-4385.

From the Manager's Desk

Anyone who's kept up with current events is well aware of California's fiscal crisis. There's been a lot of information in the media about how revenue shortfalls in Sacramento are impacting local government as the State has elected to keep millions of dollars earmarked for cities, counties, schools, etc. Perhaps the most obvious victims of these fiscal maneuvers are social services. However, given the \$8-11 million shortfall in SLO County's general fund this year, your County Parks will not be operating in a "business as usual" mode. Unprecedented increases in workers comp rates, insurance, fuel, construction materials, etc. are significantly driving up the cost of providing park and recreation services just like they are for any private business. Unfortunately, County government is not in the position to offset those increases with equal support for your parks.

The result is a series of service cuts that will likely be noticed by our regular users. Less part time labor to help with picking up trash, grooming trails or scheduling user reservations; fewer dollars to repair or replace broken benches and picnic tables; potentially reduced hours of lighting hard courts at night; and dozens of other issues that may inconvenience or disappoint our visitors. We'll be working harder in the coming months to marshal more volunteers to help offset some of this loss but even recruiting, training and supervising volunteers takes staff time that is now in short supply. The Park Rangers and support staff that manage your parks pride themselves in providing a quality product for the community and will be doing their best under difficult circumstances to maintain the level of service you've come to expect but the impact cannot be completely avoided. So enjoy your summer outdoors but please remember that we're all facing a lean year or two. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

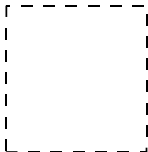
—Pete Jenny, Parks Manager

Pete Jenny Parks Manager
Ernie Del Rio Operations Supt.
Denis Philbin Maintenance Supt.
Ray Festa Golf Course Supt.
Jan Di Leo Senior Park Planner

Gail Pederson Marketing/Promotions
Shaun Cooper Park Planner
Chuck Lowe, Ken Klis, Mark Wagner and
Don Melin. Supervising Rangers
Stacey King Aquatics/Special Events

Julie Booth Reservations
Tom Massey Morro Bay Golf Course
Russ Krok Dairy Creek Golf Course
**FOR GENERAL PARK
INFORMATION CALL 805-781-5200**

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS
1087 SANTA ROSA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408



Visit SLO County Parks on the web at: SLOCountyParks.org